



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021

No. 122

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Listen to our prayers, mighty God. We look to You with the vibrant expectation that You are willing to do for us more than we can ask or imagine.

Lord, we are grateful that our lawmakers can fulfill Your purposes for our Nation because of the strength they receive from You each day. Show our Senators Your compassion. Give them peace that will provide them with an anchor for life's storms.

Lord, provide them with the wisdom to face life's challenges, believing that nothing is impossible for You.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I will have my remarks, but first I will do a little bit of housekeeping.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2311 AND H.R. 3684

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2311) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 3684) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bills on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in a democracy, no right is more sacred than the right to vote. And yet, across the country, Republican-controlled State legislatures are conducting the most sweeping and coordinated attack on voting rights in generations, fueled by Donald Trump's insidious Big Lie that the election was stolen.

In several States, limits have been placed on voting hours, polling locations, and methods of voting. Barriers have been raised to make voting by mail, absentee voting, afterhours voting, and early voting harder.

Republican legislatures are not only making it harder to vote, they are making it easier to steal an election. They actually believe that. Donald Trump does the Big Lie, everyone knows it is a lie, and now Republican legislatures are acting on that Big Lie and saying we could steal an election. What is happening to our democracy? Stripping independent election officials of power, giving partisan election bodies more control, even firing members of county election boards, this is what Republican legislatures are doing, not for fairness, not for bipartisanship but to jaundice elections.

And if the consequence is Americans of all parties feel that the elections are not fair, what is going to happen to this sacred and wonderful democracy? Republicans are actively dismantling all the barriers that prevented Donald Trump from subverting our elections in 2020. Imagine if they hadn't been in effect. Imagine.

All of these efforts have an Orwellian logic. Under the guise of "election integrity," Republican legislatures are sowing more doubt about our elections through phony audits and fact-free claims of voter fraud, lying claims of voter fraud. They are lying. I just saw on TV this morning how the Trump lawyers are being lambasted in court. And even Rudy Giuliani has lost his license to practice because they lied about the election, that they perpetrated the Big Lie in legal documents. The same thing is happening everywhere. What is happening to this Republican Party? What is happening? When Donald Trump, the biggest liar we have ever had as President, sets the tone and they follow in those lies, repeat those lies, sometimes even embellish on those lies, what is happening to that party, the party of Abraham Lincoln?

Falsely claiming that the election was "stolen," Republican legislatures are making elections easier to overturn, even under the falsest and biggest

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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